



## IOLANI PALACE

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**LATE**

### TESTIMONY OF KIPPEN DE ALBA CHU

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#### COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Sen. Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair

#### COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 25, 2010

1:15 pm

### **SCR 145 and SR 66**

Chairs Tokuda and Fukunaga, and members of the Joint Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify **in strong support** of these resolutions.

The year 2010 marks a number of significant anniversaries, and The Friends of 'Iolani Palace will be celebrating two of them that also highlight the ethnic diversity of our islands.

First, this year marks the bicentennial of the unification of the Hawaiian islands by Kamehameha the Great into one integrated kingdom. The King Kamehameha Day Parade and Ho'olaule'a, to be held on June 12, 2010, will celebrate this achievement as well as the contributions of the various ethnic groups that subsequently arrived to form a diverse but unified local community.

Second, this year marks the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the very first contract laborers to come to Hawai'i from Japan, thanks to the vision and foresight of King Kal•kaua. Arriving in 1885, two ships, each with nearly 1,000 immigrants, would pave the way for thousands of other immigrants who would come from all over the world to make Hawai'i their new home.

Given the incredible diversity of cultural groups represented in Hawai'i, the Ethnic Studies Department at UH M•noa serves a critical purpose of providing scholarship and research, with particular emphasis on Native Hawaiians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders. The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this program deserves official recognition by the State, and we are pleased to offer this testimony in support.

Thank you.

## STATEMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIE STUDENT ASSOCIATION IN SUPPORT OF SCR 145/SR 66 PROCLAIMING 2010 AS THE YEAR OF ETHNIC STUDIES IN HAWAI'I

Aloha Senators, my name is Jasmine Fernandez and I am the chair of the Ethnic Studies Student Association (ESSA).

Initiated in 1970, Ethnic Studies combines traditional and contemporary methodologies with new perspectives on issue of race, ethnicity, and class. The focus is on Hawai'i, with its rich legacy of multiethnic heritages. The research, teaching and service components, however, also involve the United States and comparative studies of societies around the globe.

ESSA is an eclectic group of interactive students who want to speak out, get involved in the ethnically and culturally diverse community here in Hawai'i. ESSA is a forum for students to express ideas and concerns and transform them into action.

ESSA will be working with the Ethnic Studies Department faculty, staff, and alumni to organize events to educate UH students and the broader community about issues of social justice impacting the multi-ethnic communities of Hawai'i as part of the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

We urge passage of SCR 145/SR 66 Proclaiming 2010 as the year of the Ethnic Studies in Hawai'i. Mahalo.